



A briefe collection of some part of the exactions, extorsions, oppressions, tyrannies, and excesses towards the liues, bodies and goods of prisoners, done by *Alexander Harris* Warden of the Fleete, in his foure yeares misgouernment, ready to be proued by oath and other testimonies.

*Murder.*

1. After knowne quarrels and fightings betweene two prisoners, lodging them in one chamber, where squrelling and fighting againe, and notice to him thereof giuen, and of likely further mischief, this notwithstanding continuance of them together, vntill the one murdered the other.

*Felonie.*

2. Remouing a prisoner out of his chamber, hauing 5 l. s. hid vnder his bed, which the prisoner required he might go to his chamber to dispose of, which was denied, and he thrust vp in another roome close prisoner, vntill the Warden and some of his seruants rifled his bed of that mony.

*Robberie.*

3. 1 l. s. 6 s. taken out of the Trunk, and by violence from the person of a close prisoner sicke in his bed, by the Warden and his seruants.

*Infidelitie.*

4. After engagement of faith, soule and all vnder hand and seale, contrary thereto detaining a prisoner, hauing libertie by his Maiesties writ, to his great preiudice.

*False imprisonment.*

5. False imprisonment of men discharged, offering to pay all due fees, for diuers moneths.

*Close imprisonment.*

6. Close imprisonment of many without order, warrant or law, by moneths and yeares.

*Cruel imprisonment.*

7. Close and cruell imprisonment, chaining, manicling, and bolting of them with irons, some of the degree of Knighthood, without cause or warrant.

*Staruing close prisoners.*

8. Staruing of men close imprisoned, guarding them from meate, drinke, &c. and that after command of authoritie to the contrary.

*Seizing and detaining prisoners goods.*

9. Breaking of prisoners chambers, hauing first remoued them, opening their Trunks, seizing their goods, and still detaining them.

*Robbing the poore mens boxes.*

10. Where an order giues vpon euery dayes going abroad by one that is not in execution, 8 d. to the Wardes box, the orders exemplified vnder the great Seale, hath a dath ouer the word *wardes*, to make it Wardens box; by which practise and vnder colour thereof he continually robbeth the poore of that 8 d. a day, which is yearely a great matter.

*Robbing his poore seruants of their dues.*

11. Where the same order giues 12 d. a day to the keeper that goeth abroad with such prisoner, hee robbeth his seruants of that also, forcing the prisoner besides to content his keeper.

*Abusing of the Countells Warrant Dormant.*

12. He hath Warrant Dormant vnder some of the Countells hands, nor naming any particular person, by which continually in all countries hee seizeth vpon his Maiesties subiects, forceth them to giue bonds to be his prisoners, exacteth into'lerable fees, and compositions, &c. where these apprehensions ought to be by the Sheriffes of the Shires, without such vexation or charge to the subiect.

*Excessive rates of chambers.*

13. Where by orders no man ought to pay for any chamber, the Warden allowing bed and bedding, about 2 s. 4 d. a weeke, he exacteth 8 s. 10 s. 13 s. 4 d. and of some twentie shillings a weeke without bedding.

*Exacting for lodging in Common wards and Dungeons.*

14. Where before his time nothing was paide for lodging in the Common Wards, hee exacteth as if they lay in priuate chambers, vpon his bedding; yea for the very Dungeon also.

*Exaction for chambers, not hauing any.*

15. He exacteth after those high rates chamber rents of men hauing no chambers, but lying abroad by the Kings writ or otherwise.

*Exactions of diet, taking none.*

16. He exacteth for diet whole commons of men that take none of his meate or drinke: a thing neuer demanded before his time.

*Impositions vpon meate and fuell.*

17. He layeth impositions vpon meate and fuell, and forceth prisoners to pay them, as 2 d. a ioynt, 3 s. 4 d. for a load of buliets, &c. and forceth prisoners to pay 12 d. a bushell for charcole, which are to be bought for 12 d. a sacke.

*Horrible exactions vpon such as go abroad by the Kings writs.*

18. Where men be whole vacations abroad by *Habeas corpus*, he forceth them to pay him 20 d. a day for outgoings, their chamber rent and diet, horrible exactions, neuer had or demanded by former Wardens.

*Excessive exactions for his fauour to go vpon the Kings writs.*

19. Of men hauing the Kings writs to go about their businesse, hee exacteth of them for his leaue, of some 40 s. 3 lib. 5 lib. 10 lib. or more in money, or other bribes, a dayly trade neuer done by any before: and without yeelding these foule exactions, they are stayed, and lose their occasions.

The foule exactions, extorsions, and base vsages towards prisoners, by *Robert Holmes* the Clerke, *Henry Cooke* the Porter, *Richard Mansell*, and other M. Wardens worthy iustruments, seruants, and Affidavit men, would aske a volume, and is referued for a larger discourse.

There be many other great griuances, which for breuitie are omitted, all which will directly be proued, and most of these aboue be in the particular accusations deliuered in Parliament, with the witnesses names annexed, ready to be verified vpon oath, as they haue already bin verbally attested before the honorable Committee, at foure seuerall meetings in the Fleete.

*Proverbs 1. 19.*

*Such is the wayes of euery one that is greedy of gaine: he would take away the life of the owners thereof.*